



SUNSHINE IN A BOX



Special Edition Volume 6 issue 3

May 27th 2020

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# Special Edition: May

## Farm Updates

Greetings!

The much needed rain is giving way to warm weather perfect for growing CSA veggies. Cooler weather mid-May slowed down planting and made way for other projects. I was able to pot up peppers and tomatoes into larger pots which will be planted soon, moved the chickens to a new paddock with fresh grass, and began the regular cultivations of the fields using some new tools that should make weed management more enjoyable.

The last few springs have been marked by some early warm spells causing trees to bloom followed by late frosts that can cause damage to flowers that have emerged. I hear that fruit trees around the state were not damaged for the most part. (Cont. p 2.)

## Covid-19 Response

Please see the attached appendix 1 for some CSA pick up "Best Practices." It seems pragmatic to use this opportunity to review some basic hand washing techniques and food safety practices, plus some additional measures to slow virus transmission. Thank you for helping make the CSA a service that will continue to be available!

## First CSA Pick Up

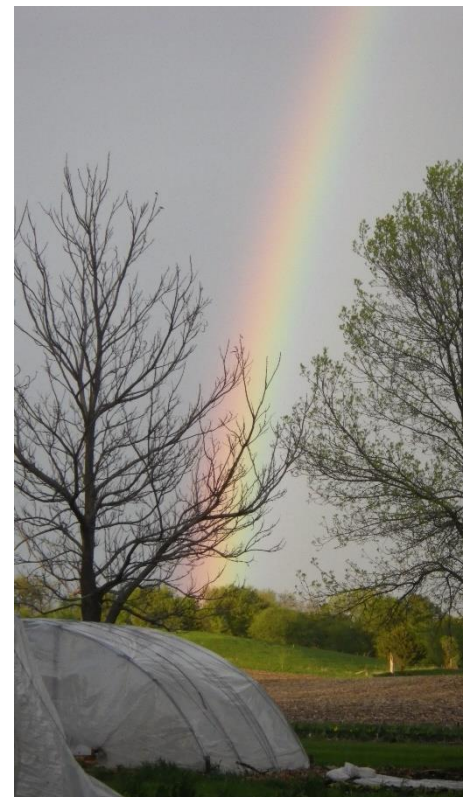
The first CSA pick up will be **Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>**. Here are the basics:

Pick up times:

- 4 and 8pm at the **farm** from the gazebo
- **St. Philip the Deacon** from 5-7 pm at the upper parking lot back entrance
- **Minnetonka** host family from 5:30 to 6:00 pm (contact me for address)

This season, you will receive a new paper handle bag each week with no label, so you can take any small bag for half shares and large bag for full shares. You do not have to worry about returning the container each week and the bags are re-useable. I will round up re-usable packaging as needed during the season including egg cartons and fiber containers.

Please let me know if you have any questions leading up to the first pick up. You will receive an email reminder a few days in advance, and a newsletter each Wednesday.



**(Farm Updates from p 1)** Planting continues as I simultaneously work to keep weed pressure back. This early time frame is critical in terminating weeds while small. To manage weeds, I use a multipronged approach of hand hoeing, wheel hoeing, hand weeding, forking and tarps. I hope to also plant some cover crops (for example, buckwheat can help prevent the germination of weed seeds and oats can build bio matter and smother weeds).

I received a grant this spring from the Mill City Farmer's Market Next Stage Grant Program for a new greenhouse structure called a caterpillar tunnel which will help protect crops and extend the growing season. I am thrilled to be partnering with the Sustainable Farming Association to create 5 installments of updates on the project based on the use of soil health principles within the structure. This partnership will help with farmer-to-farmer education and will fulfill the reporting requirement of the grant. Stay tuned for more updates on this project!

The next newsletter will be the first official newsletter of the season with actual produce on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2020!

